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Baudh Undated Grant of Raṇabhañjadeva

By

A. C. Banerji, M.A., Calcutta.

Adrisa Chandra Vandyopadhyaya

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Four sets of ancient copper plate grants were handed over to the late Mr. R. D. Banerji by Paṇḍit Tarakesvar Gangoly of the Mayurbhañj State, for decipherment. Out of these four, three were charters of Bhañja dynasty, and the fourth was a charter of Devānandadeva. All of them were noticed by the late scholar in his *History of Orissa* Vol. I; but on account of his sudden death, and continued ill-health prior to that event, he was able to decipher only one record. Before the manuscript could be sent to the Press, the grant was published by Mr. Binayak Misra.[1] I am now editing one of these grants with the permission of Mr. Paramananda Acharya, State Archæologist, Mayurbhañj. My thanks are also due to Pandit Gangoly for securing me the necessary permission.

The grant in question was discovered in the little state of Baudh in Orissa, but the exact find spot is not known to me. It consists of three copper plates, held together by means of a thick ring of copper, which passes through a round hole on the left side of each plate. A copper seal oval in shape, measuring 2″ in the major axis and 1½″ in the minor axis is soldered to the ring.[2] The writing covers two sides of one plate and one side of two plates. The inscription on the seal reads *Śrī-Raṇabhañjadevasya*. Above the name is a crescent and below it a Bull walking to left. It seems to me that the third plate of this charter was not a part of the original grant as no connection can be established between lines 29 and 30.

The inscription on the first plate begins with the usual phrases *saṃhāra-kāla-hutabhug-vikarāla* etc. Śilābhañja is mentioned in line 6, Śatrubhañja in line 10, and the donor

1 *JBORS.*, vol. xvii, pp. 104-18.

2 I am indebted to Mr. Acharya for these details.

in line 19. Therefore in this grant we have the following chronology :—

[Śilābhañja
|
Śatrubhañja
|
Raṇabhañja

Paramavaiṣṇavo.....Bhañj-āmala-kula-tilaka samādhigata-pañca-mahāśabdo mahāsāmanta-vandita Stambheśvarī labdha-vara-prasādo, Rāṇakaḥ.

It is therefore apparent that this grant belongs to Raṇabhañja I, and not Raṇabhañja II.[1] In the Baudh grant of the 54th regnal year of this king, he is described as a *Mahārāja*, hence we may conclude from the preamble of this grant that it was issued in the earlier part of the donor's reign.

The object of the charter was to grant the village of AMVASARI in the *maṇḍala* of Khiñjali to a brāhmaṇa named Devahara son of Kāchila, and grandson of Bhaṭṭaputra Keśava who had emigrated from Madhyadeśa and settled at a village called Mahiṣipadraka. The donee belonged to the Kānva gotra, Aśvalāyana śākhā, the Vahbhṛicha charaṇa. The village granted was in the neighbourhood of Sivarakhaṇḍa in the Dakṣhiṇapali sub-division.

The grant was written by Padmanābha son of *Vaṇika* Pāṇḍi who was an inhabitant of Gandhāṭapati. This Pāṇḍi and his sons seems to have been entrusted with inscribing royal charters, by the Bhañja kings of Khiñjali *maṇḍala*. A son of Pāṇḍi named Śivanāga is mentioned in the Sonpur plates of Śatrubhañja.[2] Padmanābha, who inscribed this grant, was also responsible for Siṅgara plates of the 9th regnal year of the king.

The language of the grant is very incorrect Sanskrit, and the mistakes made by the scribe are numerous. I have indicated the metres of the portion written in verses, but the composer seems to have very little idea of prosody, and many

1 *JBORS.*, vol. xiv, pp. 114-26. R. D. Banerji, *History of Orissa* vol. i, p. 170, Calcutta, 1930.

2 *EI.*, vol. xvii, p. 200.

stanzas have been left incomplete. The characters of the grants is similar to that of other records of this king. I am inclined to place this record after the Baudh grant of the 28th regnal year of the king.

Regarding ORTHOGRAPHY we have to note that *ta* has been doubled whenever it has been used before *ra* (cf. *ātapattraṃ* line 5; and *samattraya* in line 9). The village of Gandhāṭapati seems to be the modern village of Gandharadi in the Baudh state. I am unable to identify other place names.[1]

The plates are now kept in the Museum of Archæology at Baripada, the chief town of Mayurbhañj State.

*TEXT**

FIRST PLATE: FIRST SIDE

1. Om[2] svastiḥ[3] || Saṃhāra[4]-kāla-hutabhug-vikarāla-ghoraḥ |[5] saṃbhrānta-kiṅkara-kṛi-

2. tānta-nitānta-bhinnaṃ| bhinn-āndhak-āsura-mahāgah-an-ātapattras[6][|*]tad=bhairavam Hara-va-

3. purbha[va*]taḥ prapātu|[5][||*]Durvvāra[4]-vāraṇa-raṇa-pratipaksha-[paksha*]-Lakshmīḥ |[5] hatha-grahaṇa-su

4. praśrita[7] pratāpā[ḥ*]| Bhañjā narādhipatayo v(b)ahav (b)o v(b)abhūr-udbhutaye-tra[8] |[5] bhuya[9] bhu(ū)

5. ri-sahasra-saṃkhyāḥ[|| *][4] Steshām[10] kule sakala bhu-tala (bhūtala)-pāda(la)-mauli |[5]

6. māl-ārchchit-āṅghri-yu[ga*]lo valavā[n*] nṛipo=taḥ[11] || Śrī-Śilābhañja-devaḥ

* Edited from the original plates.

1 B. Misra, *Mediæval Dynasties of Orissa*, p. 46, no. 10; Calcutta, 1933.

2 Expressed by a symbol.

3 read *svasti*.

4 Metre: Vasantatilaka.

5 The punctuation or visarga is superfluous.

6 read *ātapattraṃ*.

7 read *supraprasṛita*.

8 read *bahavo-bahaūvur=udbhūtaye=ttra*.

9 read *bhuvi*.

10 read *Teshāṃ*.

11 The other grants have *bhut*.

7. prakāśaḥ[1] paurusha-raśmi-chakra-nirdārit-ā[ri*] hṛidayo=sya pitā nṛipasya | [||*] Gāmbhī-[2]

8. ryeṇa payonidhiḥ sthiratayā bhūmir-vvalen=ānilas-tejobhir-jvalanor-yamāṃ[3]

9. samatraya[4] śubhai-[5] yaśobhiḥ śasī ātma-sarvva-jagan-manaḥ sthitatvaya[6]da

10. tt-āvakāśo viyāt[7] |[12] Śrī-Śatrubhañja ity=ātula-dhi[ḥ*] [||*] Tasy=ātmajaḥ svayambhu-vat | [||*]

SECOND PLATE: FIRST SIDE.

11. Anye-nya-madamāna-militaḥ[8] samuddhata-nṛipa-chakra chaturaṅga-v(b)ala-kshobhaḥ[9] |

12. chalita-dharā-maṇḍala[10] gaja-turaga-kshura-nirdārana prasarad-atulaḥ[11] |[12] dhuli-vi-

13. tāna-saṃchhanna-jany-āṅgana[13] gaja-skandha-vedikā svayaṃvar-āyāta [|*] parinata[14]

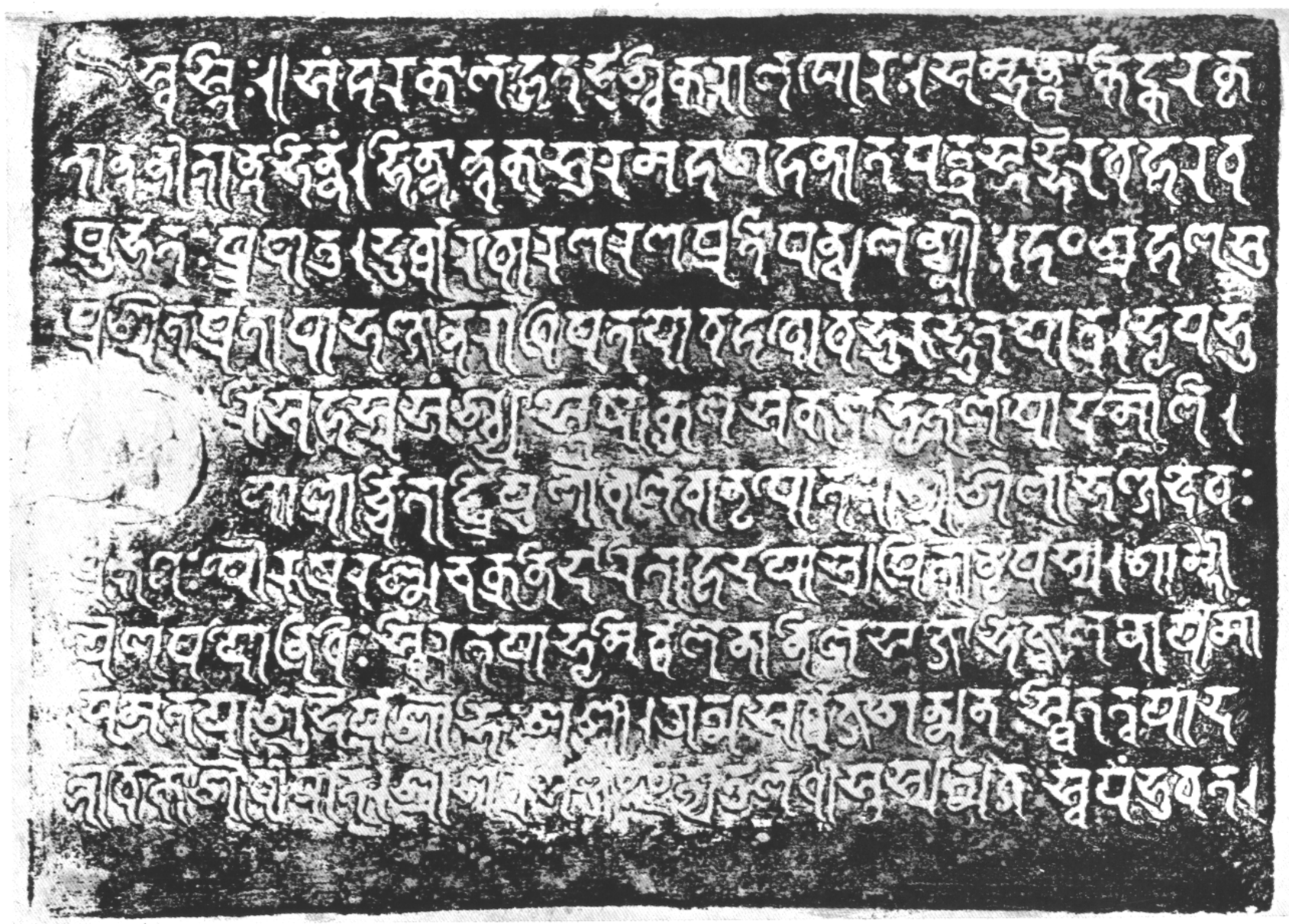
14. jaya-lakshmīḥ |[12] samānandita-paurjana-manaśaḥ[15] śrīmad-Bhañja-bhupatiḥ purā[d*]=Dhṛi-

15. ti-pura-nāmnaḥ |[||*] śarad-amala-dhavala-kara-yaśaḥ-paṭala-dhavalita

16. dig-vadano [||*] Anavarata-pravṛittaḥ |[12] sanmāna[16] da(dā)n-ānandita-sakala-ja-

17. no aṇḍaja-vaṃśa-prabhavaḥ | Paramavaishṇavo-mātā-pitṛi-pād-ānudhyāto

1 read *prakaṭaḥ.*
2 Metre: Śārdulvikrīḍita.
3 read *yamaṃ.*
4 read *samatayā.*
5 read *śubhrair.*
6 read *sthitatayā.*
7 read *viyat-jātaḥ.*
8 read *Any-onya-mardamāna milita.*
9 read *kshobha.*
10 read *maṇḍalo.*
11 read *atula-dhuli.*
12 the punctuation is superfluous.
13 read *saṃchhanna-jany-āṅgano.*
14 read *pariṇīta.*
15 read *paurajana-mānasaḥ.*
16 read *anavarata-pravritta-sanmāna.*



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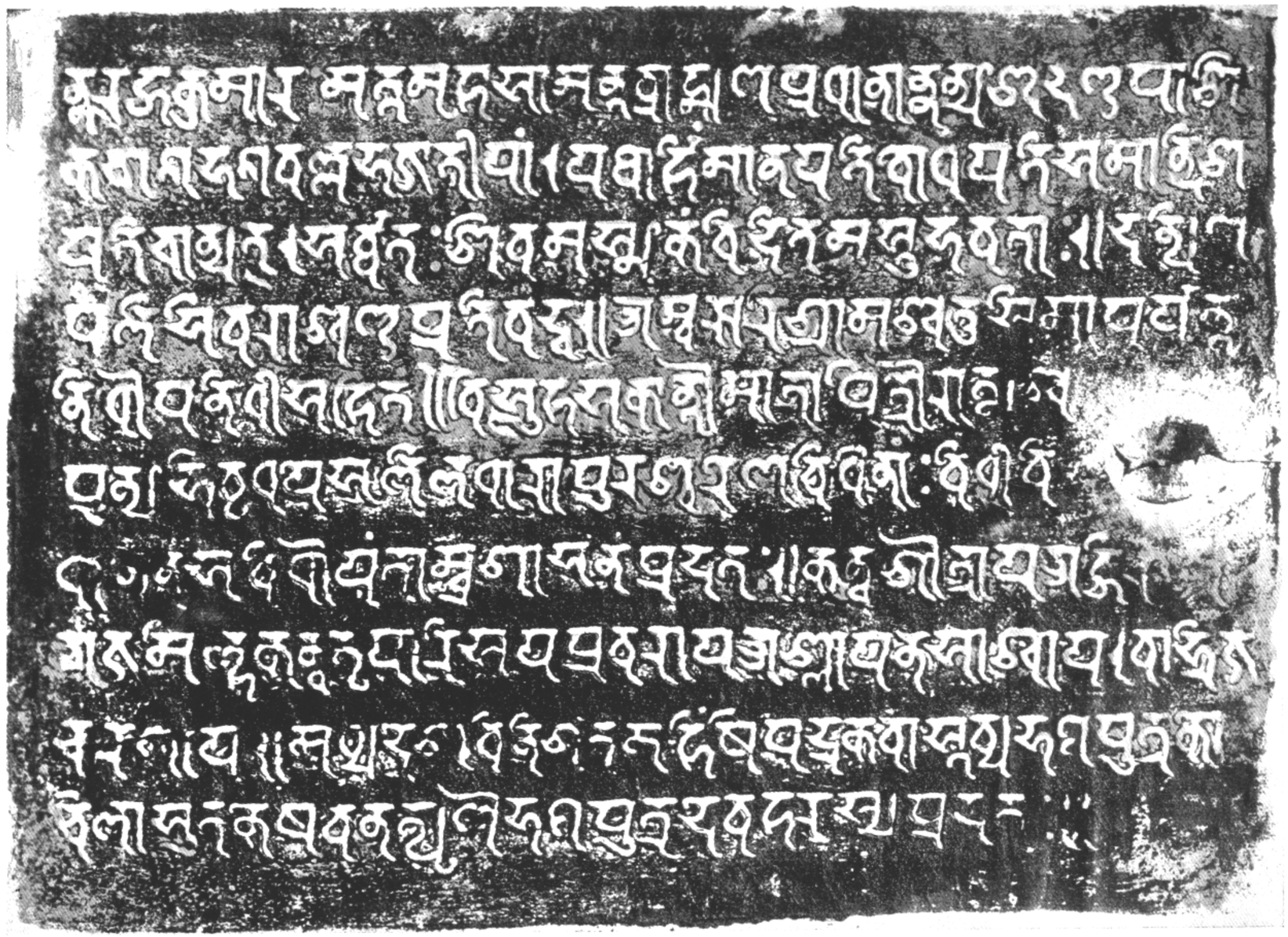

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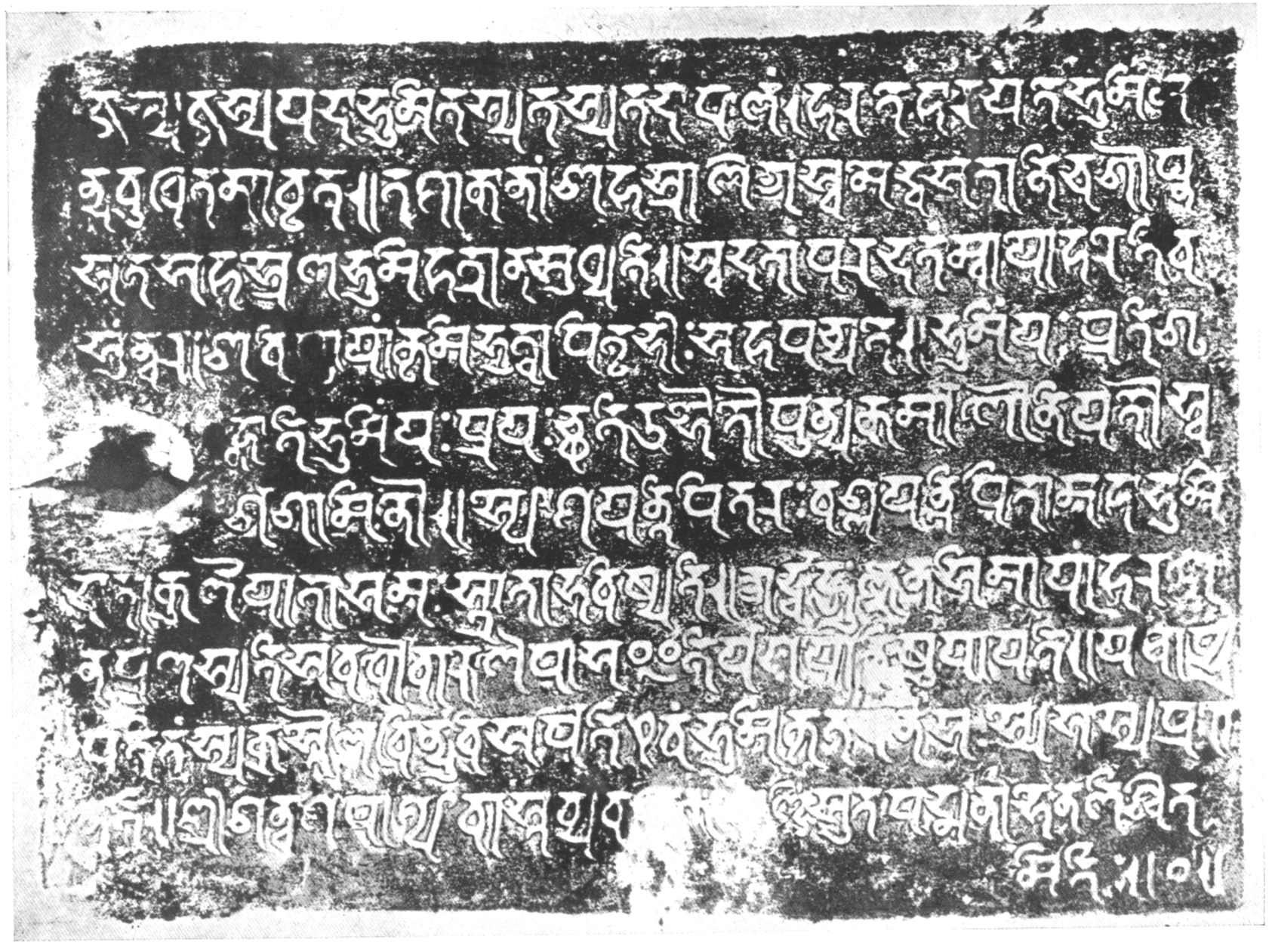
J. B. O. R. S., Vol. XX, 1934.



Baudh Undated Grant of Raṇabhañjadeva.

⟨ Seal ⟩

Seal of Baudh Undated Grant of Raṇabhañjadeva.

18. Bhañj-āmala-kula-tilakaḥ[1] |[8] samadigataḥ[2]-pañchama-hā-śabdaḥ(śabdo) mahāsā-

19. manta-vandita Stambheśvarī-lavdha-vara-prasādaḥ[3] Rāṇaka[ḥ*] śrī-RAṆABHAÑJA

20. deva-kuśalī | lh=aiva KHIÑJALI-maṇḍale bha-vishyad-rāja-rājanak-ā

SECOND PLATE : SECOND SIDE.

21. ntaraṅga-kumāraḥmatta[4] mahāsāmanta-brāhmaṇa-pradhānānn-anys-cha[5]-daṇḍapā[ś*]i

22. ka chāṭa-bhaṭa-vallabha-jātīyān | yathārhiṃ(arhaṃ) mānayati bodhayati samandiśa-

23. yati[6] ch-ānyat | sarvvataḥ śivam=asmākaṃ viditam-astu bhavatāṃḥ[7] || Dakshiṇa

24. pali-Sivarākhaṇḍa-pratibaddha ||[8] Amvasari-grāmas-chatu[ḥ*] śi(sī)mā-paryanta

25. nidh-aupanidhi sahitaṃ[9] || Visubha—[10]saṃkrāntau mātā-pitror=ātmanaś=cha

26. puny(ṇy)-ābhi-vṛidh(ddh)aye salila-dhārā-puraśvarena[11] vidhināḥ[7] vidhi-vi

27. dhānena sa-vidh-oyaṃ tāmvra-śāsanaṃ pradataḥ[12] || Kānva-gotrāya Āṅgirasa

28. Ajamilha-[13]kānva triyārisaya[14]-pravarāya Āślāyana[15] -sākhāya | Vābhrija (Vahvṛicha)

1 read *tilaka.* 2 read *samādhigata.*
3 read *prasādo.* 4 read *kumārāmātya.*
5 read *brāhmaṇa-pradhānan-anyaṃś=cha.*
6 read *samādiśayati.*
7 The visarga is superfluous.
8 The punctuation is superfluous.
9 read *nidhye-upanidhi-sahita.*
10 read *Vishubha.*
11 read *puraḥsareṇa.* 12 read *pradatta.*
13 read *Ajamiḍha-kāṇva.* 14 read *try-ārsheya.*
15 read *Aśvalāyana-śākhāya.*

29. charanya[1] Madhyadeśa-vinirgata(āya)-Mahishipadraka-vāstavya-Bhaṭaputra-Kā-

30. chila-suta-Keshava-naptriṇe[2] Bhaṭ[ṭ*]aputra-DEVA-HARASYA[3] pradataḥ[4] ||

THIRD PLATE : FIRST SIDE.

31. J(Y)asya-j(y)asya yadā bhumi[s*] tasya-tasya-tadā phalaṃ | Harate-hāryate bhūmi[m*] ma-

32. nda-budhi(ddhis)=tamāvṛita[ḥ*] || Taṭākānāṃ śa(sa)-hasrāni ch-āśvamedha-sa(śa)tāni cha Goghna

33. sa(śa)ta-sahasreṇa bhūmi-hatra(rta) na sudhyati[4] || Sva-datām[5] para-dataṃ-[5]vā yo harati-va-

34. sundharāṃ śa(sa) vishṭhāyāṃ-kṛimir-bhutvā pitṛibhīḥ (bhi) saha pachyate || Bhūmiṃ-yaḥ pratigṛi-

35. hn(ṇ)āti bhūmiṃ yaḥ prayachchhati [|*] ubhau-tau puṇya karmānau niyatau(ṃ) sva-

36. rga-gāminau || [Ā*]sphoṭayanti pitaraḥ vaglayanti[6] pitāmahā[ḥ*] [|*] bhūmi-

37. dātā-kule-jāta[ḥ*][7] sa-maḥ[8]-strātā[9] bhavisyati || Arddh-a (ā)ṅgulena-si(si) māyāṃ-haraṇe

38. na-pranasya(śya)ti-sa-vadhau[10] Varuṇai [ḥ*] pāsa (śa)-air-tiryag-yonishu jāyate || Yath=āpsu

39. patitaṃ Syakras[11]-taila-v(b)indu[r*]-visarpati[|*]evam bhūmi kṛitaṃ dānaṃ saḥsye-sasye[12] praro-

40. hati || Śrī-Gandhāṭa-patya-vāstavya-Vaṇika-Pāṇḍi suta-PADMANĀBHENA likhita-

41. m-itiḥ || 0 ||

1 read *charaṇāya.*
2 read *Keśava-naptre.*
3 read *Devaharāya.*
4 read *pradatta.*
5 read *śuddhati.*
6 read *dattām.*
7 read *pravalgayanti.*
8 read *me*
9 read *trātā.*
10 read *baddho.*
11 read *śakra taila* etc.
12 read *sasye.*